

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12059 261423Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5659

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12059

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN
SUBJ: GOALS AND TASKS FOR AMBASSADOR: INDIA

REF: STATE 201811

1. YOUR LATEST VERSION OF GOALS AND TASKS IS MUCH MORE SPECIFIC, TAKES INTO ACCOUNT OUR PREVIOUS COMMENTS, AND I HAVE ONLY A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE ON IT.

2. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SPELL OUT WHAT WE MEAN BY ARMS/NUCLEAR ASSURANCES IN THE SECOND ITEM UNDER SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL STABILITY. THIS IS AN AREA OF GREAT SENSITIVITY AND IMPORTANCE AND WE SHOULD BE CLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE ASKING. ASSUMING THAT WE ARE REFERRING TO ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS AND INDIAN NUCLEAR ASSURANCES TO PAKISTAN, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION: "ENCOURAGE CONTINUATION OF THE SIMLA PROCESS WITH PAKISTAN, INCLUDING INDIA/PAKISTAN AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ARMS LIMITATION AND MUTUAL INDIA/PAKISTAN ASSURANCES REGARDING PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INTENTIONS."

3. WE SUGGEST THAT THE ITEM ON THE SOVIET NAVAL
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12059 261423Z

PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BE MOVED FROM (IV), IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL COOPERATION IN GLOBAL ISSUES TO (V) ENCOURAGE BETTER BALANCE IN INDIA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND BE REFORMULATED AS FOLLOWS: "ENCOURAGE THE INDIANS TO PROVIDE BALANCED SUPPORT, IN PUBLIC AS WELL AS IN PRIVATE, TO US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN." IN

THIS SAME SECTION WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT IS MEANT BY GRANTING GREATER RECIPROCITY TO US CONSULAR PERSONNEL. ALSO, THE SAME SECTION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ACTIVELY SEEK MODIFICATION OF THE LALL FORMULA GIVEN THE CURRENT CLIMATE OF OPINION HERE. RAISING THIS ISSUE WHILE WE ARE ENGAGED IN NON-PROLIFERATION NEGOTIATIONS CAN ONLY EMPHASIZE WHAT THE INDIANS REGARD AS THE DISCREPANCY AND MORAL INCONSTENCIES BETWEEN US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ITS STRENGTH AS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS POWER AND IN ASSURING THAT INDIA NOT DEVELOP A SIMILAR CAPABILITY. A CHANGE IN THE LALL FORMULA WILL REQUIRE MINISTERIAL APPROVAL AND HIGHLIGHT THIS INCONSISTENCY.

4. ASIDE FROM THESE SPECIFIC COMMENTS THERE ARE ONE OR TWO CASES IN WHICH ITEMS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE, E.G. RECIPROCITY FOR US MILITARY ATTACHES AND EXPANSION OF THE CALCUTTA CONSULAR DISTRICT HAVE BEEN LISTED IN THE COMPANY OF MATTERS OF CONSEQUENCE. BUT I BELIEVE WE HAVE A SUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING OF RELATIVE PRIORITIES AMONG THESE GOALS SO THIS WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM.
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